



This fact sheet will give you...

- The background of the site.
- U.S. EPA's selected alternate water option.
- Activities planned for the site.

U.S. EPA Selects Water Option for the Evergreen Manor Groundwater Contamination Site

Winnebago County, Illinois

March 1999

Introduction

On March 2, 1999, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued an action memorandum for a non-time critical (NTC) removal action at the Evergreen Manor Site, Winnebago County, Illinois ("Evergreen Manor Site" or "Site"). The NTC removal action calls for the construction of a water main extension from the North Park Public Water District to the requesting residents located within the boundaries shown in Figure 1.

The NTC removal action will remove or eliminate any long-term threats posed through ingestion, inhalation and direct contact with the hazardous substances found in groundwater at the Site. This action, however, does not treat or remove the contamination in groundwater. U.S. EPA will, at a minimum, conduct a focused Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine if it is necessary and feasible to contain and/or treat groundwater. Both the NTC removal action and the RI/FS are expected to start in the spring of 1999.

Site Description and History

The Evergreen Manor Site is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the Village of Roscoe in Winnebago County, Illinois, in the south ½ of Section 16, the west ½ of Sections 21 and 29, and the East ½ of Sections 20 and 30, Township 46 North, Range 2 East. The Site is currently defined by the areal extent of groundwater contamination in this area. The Site includes approximately 250 homes with an estimated total population of 700 persons. More specifically, the area addressed by

this NTC removal action includes properties located in the residential areas of Evergreen Manor subdivision, Hononegah Heights subdivision, and the Olde Farm subdivision (see Figure 2).

Groundwater samples taken by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), the Illinois Department of Public Health, and U.S. EPA reveal that the Site is contaminated with trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE) in excess of Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL). Concentrations of TCE in samples collected from the Site have ranged from a high of 90.9 ppb in 1991 to a high of 18 ppb in 1998. Concentrations of PCE in samples collected from the Site have ranged from a high of 5.8 ppb in 1991 to a high of 5.3 ppb in 1998. The MCL for TCE and PCE is 5 ppb.

On July 28, 1998, U.S. EPA proposed the Evergreen Manor Site for the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. Sites on the list are eligible for long-term cleanup under the Superfund program.

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was completed by U.S. EPA in November 1998. The EE/CA evaluated three options to abate the threat(s) to human health from exposure to contaminated drinking water: 1) construction of a water main extension project to bring potable water from the North Park Public Water District to the individual residences threatened by contaminated water; 2) point-of-entry residential treatment involving the use of carbon filters at the outlet of the well; and 3) point-of-use residential treatment involving the use of carbon filters at the kitchen

faucet.

On November 10, 1998, U.S. EPA opened the public comment period for the EE/CA. A public meeting was held in the community on November 17, 1998. Public comments were accepted at the public meeting and by mail during the 30 day public comment period. On December 10, 1998, the public comment period ended. U.S. EPA's responses to comments received during the public comment period can be found in Attachment VI to the Action Memorandum. Almost all of the comments received during the public comment period favored a water main extension project to bring potable water from the North Park Public Water District to the individual residences threatened by contaminated water.

Site Risks / Need for Action

U.S. EPA performed a preliminary risk assessment which identified the ingestion of TCE, PCE and 1,1-dichloroethene through drinking water from affected private wells as the primary exposure pathway of concern.

TCE and PCE concentrations in residential drinking water wells at the Evergreen Manor site exceed MCLs. In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act which requires U.S. EPA to determine safe levels at which chemicals in drinking water will not cause health problems. MCLs are set based on known or anticipated adverse human health effects, the ability of various technologies to remove the contaminant, and the effectiveness and cost of such technologies. All MCLs are set at levels that protect public health. Because the limit for many substances is based on a lifetime exposure, short-term exceedances for most contaminants pose a limited health risk.

Selected Alternative for the Site

Through the EE/CA, U.S. EPA determined that residences at the Evergreen Manor Site will be best served if they are hooked up to the North Park Public Water District water supply. As described in the EE/CA report, this alternative meets U.S. EPA's

evaluation criteria (see the box entitled *Evaluating the Alternatives*) and best addresses the objective of protecting residents from contaminants in groundwater.

EVALUATING ALTERNATIVES

U.S. EPA used three criteria to compare the alternatives during the EE/CA:

1. **Effectiveness** - Refers to the ability of an alternative to meet the objectives within the scope of the removal action, especially in regard to protection of public health and the environment.
2. **Implementability** - Considers the technical and administrative feasibility of implementing the alternative, such as the availability of goods and services.
3. **Cost** - Refers to estimated capital, operation and maintenance costs, as well as present-worth costs. Present worth cost is an alternatives total cost over time in terms of today's dollars.

The provision of an alternative water supply involves the layout of pipelines from the potable water source to the customer and the connection of the customer to the potable water source. The excavated areas would be backfilled with clean fill and restored to pre-existing conditions. Specific removal action tasks are as follows:

- Construction of a water main extension from the North Park Public Water District to the requesting residences affected by the plume located within the boundaries shown in Figure 1 (requesting residences);
- Disconnect all requesting residences from their existing water supply;
- Connect all requesting residences to the water supply system;
- Abandon all wells previously used by requesting residences in accordance with Illinois EPA

regulations;

- Restore excavated areas to pre-existing conditions.

U.S. EPA will work with the community to ensure a smooth transition to the alternate water supply. Connection to the North Park Public Water District will involve laying out and connecting pipelines from the water supply to the residences. It will be necessary to obtain permission from property owners to lay out pipelines. Those not wishing to hook up will be asked to sign a statement verifying that the opportunity to hook up to the new water supply was provided, but they chose not to participate.

Use of the North Park Public Water System can eliminate the threats posed to the community at the Evergreen Manor Site. The North Park Public Water System has the capacity to meet the demands imposed by the Evergreen Manor Site.

The estimated cost of connecting residences within the Evergreen Manor Site to the North Park Public Water District is \$2.5 million.

Next Steps

U.S. EPA will notify you regarding the anticipated schedule for the removal action activities once details are finalized. U.S. EPA believes construction will commence sometime this summer with a completion date uncertain at this time. It is anticipated that a sign-up period will be provided for those affected at a nearby location prior to the actual start of construction. At this sign-up, the homeowner will be required to provide proof of ownership and sign an access agreement allowing property access to the U.S. EPA and its contractors. Mandatory well abandonment will also be required by this agreement. Officials will be present at this sign-up to answer all of your questions.

Connection to the water system is voluntary. However, U.S. EPA strongly recommends that all residents connect to the water system to prevent

exposure to potentially harmful chemicals. By refusing to allow U.S. EPA to connect a home to the water system, a property owner accepts responsibility for all costs associated with connecting to the system if he or she decides to do so at a later time.

IMPORTANT -- PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

⇒ **Connecting to the new water system is voluntary, but U.S.EPA strongly recommends that you connect to the new system.**

⇒ **You must agree to let U.S. EPA abandon your current well before we can connect you to the new system.**

⇒ **All requesting residences affected by the plume located within the boundaries shown in Figure 1 are eligible for free connection to the new water system.**

⇒ **U.S. EPA will pay for all connection work, but it cannot pay for upgrading inadequate plumbing in a home.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Evergreen Manor Groundwater Contamination Site or the Superfund process, please review the main information repository for these sites. The repository is located at the following address:

The North Suburban District Public Library
5562 Clayton Circle
Roscoe, Illinois
(815) 623-6266

An Administrative Record file, which contains the information that is the basis for site cleanup decisions, has been established at the location above and the U.S. EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

For further information on the Evergreen Manor Groundwater Contamination Site, please contact:

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